

the United States and is something that we have to do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF JUDGE RHESA HAWKINS BARKSDALE'S TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Rhesa Hawkins Barksdale. Last month marked the tenth anniversary of Judge Barksdale's investiture as a United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. On April 1, 1990, Judge Barksdale was sworn into office by Justice Byron White, for whom Judge Barksdale clerked following his graduation from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Throughout the past ten years Judge Barksdale has faithfully fulfilled his sworn duty to enforce the Constitution and laws of the United States. Needless to say, his service to the Fifth Circuit has brought distinction to his family, our State, and the Nation.

I might add that this country is indebted to Judge Barksdale for more than his zealous commitment to justice. His service as a Circuit Judge continues a lifetime of dedication and sacrifice to protect the freedoms and liberties of all Americans, as exemplified by his valiant and decorated service to his country during the Vietnam War. Judge Barksdale served in combat in Vietnam as an officer in the United States Army, and he was awarded a number of medals, including the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor, and Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Mr. President, Mississippians and Americans are grateful for Judge Barksdale's public service, and I congratulate and honor him on the tenth anniversary of his service on the bench.

READING THE NAMES OF GUN VICTIMS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

These names come from a report prepared by the United States Conference of Mayors. The report includes data from 100 U.S. cities between April 20, 1999 and March 20, 2000. The 100 cities covered range in size from Chicago, Illinois, which has a population of more than 2.7 million to Bedford Heights, Ohio with a population of about 11,800. But the list does not include gun deaths from some major cities like New York and Los Angeles.

The following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today—on May 18th, 1999: Gregory Babb, 24, Philadelphia, PA; Clifford Clark, 54, Detroit, MI; James Courtney, 20, Providence, RI; Julius Ford, 32, San Antonio, TX; Derrick Hall, 24, Chicago, IL; Jason Horsley, 25, Denver, CO; Keith Mitchell, 21, Detroit, MI; Laredo Schetop, 48, Dallas, TX; Jamaar Wynn, 15, Nashville, TN.

In the name of those who died, we will continue the fight to pass gun safety measures.

THE MILLION MOM MARCH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Mother's Day 2000, half a million mothers and others marched on Washington to demonstrate their fury at the number of children killed by gun violence last year. Their goal: to convince Congress to pass even more laws restricting citizen access to handguns. All in all, it was quite a spectacle. But while it reflects the modern American view that every ill can be remedied through the power of law, it seems to me the real—and only—question to be answered is will more laws actually produce the result we all seek?

Before we can answer that question, Mr. President, we must examine this one: is the recent spate of gun violence involving children the result of rising levels of crime and escalating gun ownership, or something else?

Let's look at the facts:

During the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, gun violence increased dramatically. During the 1990s, however, the numbers actually began to decline, with school violence of the type exhibited at Columbine falling precipitously to the point where kids today are probably the safest they've been in decades.

In 1996 (the last year for which statistics are available), 1,134 Americans died in accidental shootings—the lowest level ever recorded. Only 42 were under the age of 10. Yet more than 2,400 10-year-olds died that year in motor vehicle accidents, another 800 were drowned, and well over 700 died from fire. As for the danger of guns in homes, only about 30 people each year are accidentally killed by homeowners

who believe they are shooting an intruder, as opposed to 330 who are accidentally killed by police.

So why are the numbers declining? While there could be lots of reasons—tougher judges, stiffer penalties, and little mercy for repeat offenders—it's also interesting to note that the decline in murder and violent crime has paralleled an increase in gun ownership.

Mr. President, today about 80 millions Americans, or 40 percent of the population, own almost 250 million firearms, as compared with about 27 percent in 1988. And in states like Texas where citizens are allowed to carry concealed weapons, the number of murders, assaults, and burglaries has dropped dramatically. Significantly, in 15 states with tough gun control measures including the trigger locks and "safe storage" laws moms on the Mall were rallying for, there were—accordingly to Mr. LOTT—3,600 more rapes, 22,500 more robberies, and 64,000 more burglaries. Could it be that criminals are smart enough to know where they're likely to encounter resistance and where it's easiest to operate?

Mr. President, there is nothing more tragic than losing a child. And nothing more wonderful than mothers fighting to keep their children safe from harm. But before any war can be won, we must understand the enemy and develop a strategy to defeat him. In the war against gun violence, the enemy is not the weapon, but the criminal who uses it. Making it easier for him to win by restricting those who could thwart his evil act, or deter it in the first place, is not the answer.

Marching on the Mall is stirring spectacle, but ending the tragedy of gun violence requires a much more serious solution.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention an excellent report on the state of child care in the U.S. military and the implications for improving civilian child care. "Be All That We Can Be: Lessons from the Military for Improving Our Nation's Child Care System" documents the Department of Defense's impressive turn-around of its troubled child care system and its emergence as a model of affordable and quality child care for the civilian world. As recently as ten years ago, military child care was in crisis—changing demographics in the military workforce had led to a surge in demand for child care that the Department was unprepared to meet. Child care waiting lists soared and quality plummeted. Prodded by a GAO report, Congressional hearings, and the recognition that child care is a fundamental issue for military readiness, the Department of Defense turned its child care system the gold standard for the Nation.

The experience of the Department of Defense offers important lessons for the civilian world and offers great hope